Phone Company To Reveal 'Hate' Message Sponsors

New Policy Covering 'Freedom Ring' And Others To Be Effective Oct. 24

Names and address of persons who sponsor automatic telephone recorded messages will be revealed starting later this month by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company.

The move, which will go into effect Oct. 24, was the result of public outcry against the "Let Freedom Ring" recordings which have called Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren a "Communist" and accused the national PTA of being "a monolithic structure of left-wing intellectuals who are federalizing our schools in the Russian manner."

The recordings, which are called "Dial a Hate" message by opponents, operated in Frederick from a home on West Fourth Street.

The service was ordered discontinued by its unknown sponsors, after it was revealed tha W. Paul Winzer Jr. of Middletown, area coordinator for the John Birch Society, originated the recordings here in mid-June but later resigned as sponsor when he assumed his Birch Society post.

The service was discontinued Oct. 1, and attempts to contact sponsors of the group have failed.

Carl V. Weakley, local manager for the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company said yesterday that the legal department of the telephone company has filed a "tariff" with the Maryland Public Service Commission seeking permission to change policy and reveal the names of subscribers to the recorded message service.

The Federal Communications Commission was asked by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith and the National Council of Churches to order the phone companies to reveal the names of the sponsors of the unlisted services. Both groups complain-

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SPONSORS

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ed the recordings libeled them by calling them followers of the Communist Party line.

Although the FCC has taken no official action on the complaints because it has no jurisdiction over the contents of messages on telephone lines, it forwarded the complaints to the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, primary operators of the Bell Systems.

Officials of A T & T replied that it would be censorship to prohibit "Let Freedom Ring" recordings, but that the names of sponsors will be revealed.

In Baltimore, the "Let Freedom Ring" recording is also unlisted, though the sponsor has revealed himself to be Grover L. Bertram, the operator of an "American Opinion" Library in Towson.

The "American Opinion" book-selling and speakers bureau arm of the John Birch Society, also has a Frederick County outlet in Winzer's home in Middletown.

Bertram claimed that the "Let Freedom Ring" recordings have nothing to do with the John Birch Society.

Opponents charge that the messages are either written here or prepared by the group's founder, Dr. William C. Douglass of Sarasota, Fla., and recorded in the area by members. In Frederick, the $29.70 a month cost of the service was reportedly raised from local contributors.